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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 004403

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARPI, LONDON FOR TSOU, PARIS FOR ZEYA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/12/2015

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KU](#) [SUCCESSION](#)

SUBJECT: REPORT THAT CRITIC OF THE PRIME MINISTER HAS
RESIGNED

REF: KUWAIT 4372

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Matthew H. Tueller for reason 1.
4 (b)

1. (C) Post received word on the evening of October 12 that Shaykh Salem Al-Ali Al-Salem Al-Sabah, National Guard Chief and fourth highest-ranking ruling family member, has resigned his post amid criticism of his call for the formation of a tri-partite group to "assist the leadership." This information was received from a press contact at the same newspaper, Al-Qabas, which published Shaykh Salem's call for action on October 10 (reftel). The article was highly critical of some government officials and resulted in a public show of support by the Amir for Prime Minister Shaykh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Post is working to verify the information of Shaykh Salem's resignation.

2. (C) Comment: A resignation by the instigator of this unusually public internal family spat will continue to fuel speculation that the ruling family is having difficulty managing its internal affairs. Parliamentary and family support voiced for the Prime Minister has not put to rest concerns that the continued health problems of the Amir and Crown Prince have left a leadership vacuum. End Comment.
LEBARON